



## Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 928  
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0928

DEC 14 1999

00-DOE-00704

Tim Rehder  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500 EPR-FT  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

Dear Mr. Rehder:

This letter provides your agency with an update of the status of the Operable Unit (OU) 1 Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) and recommends a path forward to closeout the OU1 CAD/ROD.

The CAD/ROD for OU1 was approved March 12, 1997. The selected remedial action presented in the OU1 CAD/ROD was excavation of contaminated subsurface soils in Individual Hazardous Substance Site (IHSS) 119.1, extraction and treatment of the contaminated groundwater from the excavation, and treatment or disposal of the excavated soils. An investigation was conducted in May 1997 to verify that a source did not exist down gradient of IHSS 119.1 and to collect samples within the excavation area to determine health and safety requirements for the remedial action. These field activities determined that a source warranting excavation did not exist and that the remedy described in the CAD/ROD should be amended.

In 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concurred with the investigation results in a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) dated July 7, 1997. The EPA also recommended that the french drain located at the 881 Hillside, remain intact and continue to be sampled, and that the groundwater in the collection well at IHSS 119.1 continue to be collected and treated. In a letter dated February 10, 1998, the DOE recommended that the OU1 french drain be decommissioned and operation of the collection well cease. A path forward has not been determined.

Groundwater from the IHSS 119.1 area does not impact surface water because of the low groundwater flow in this area and the absence of a significant source. Groundwater contaminant concentrations in the french drain are consistently below Tier II action levels. Consequently, leaving the french drain intact is not required.

Approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of groundwater are collected from the OU1 collection well (Enclosure 1) and treated at the Building 891 Consolidated Water

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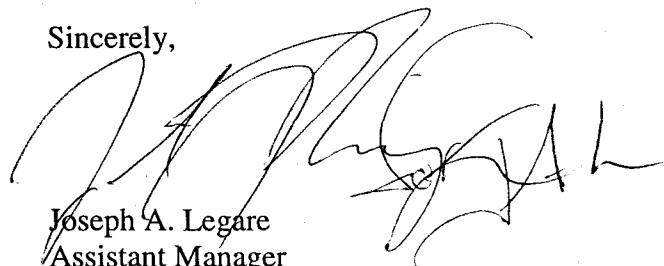
Treatment Facility at an annual cost of around \$40,000. Concentrations of 1, 1, 1-trichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethene, carbon tetrachloride, and tetrachloroethene in groundwater have not exceeded Tier 1 action levels since the collection well was installed. Trichloroethene (TCE) concentrations have been below Tier 1 action levels since March 1998 and show a downward trend demonstrated in enclosure 2. Continued treatment of the water from the collection well is not required, because contaminants have dropped below Tier 1 levels. Therefore, we recommend that collection and treatment of water from the collection well be discontinued. We do recommend that the collection well continue to be monitored, and if there is evidence that Tier I levels for TCE are being exceeded we will revisit the decision to discontinue treatment.

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends that a CAD/ROD Amendment be developed to reflect current data and expeditiously reviewed and approved to allow removal of the OU1 French Drain and cease treatment of the collection well this fiscal year. The following schedule is proposed to complete the CAD/ROD:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| • Regulatory Concurrence on Path Forward          | December 20, 1999 |
| • CAD/ROD Amendment Submitted to Agencies         | January 6, 2000   |
| • Regulatory review of CAD/ROD Amendment complete | January 14, 2000  |
| • Public Comment Period Complete                  | March 3, 2000     |
| • Regulator approval of the CAD/ROD Amendment     | March 17, 2000    |

If you should have any technical questions related to the path forward, please contact Norma I. Castaneda at (303) 966-4226 or contact me at (303) 966-5918.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Legare  
Assistant Manager  
for Environment and Infrastructure

Enclosure

Mr. Tim Rehder  
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cc w/Enc.:

A. Rampertaap, EM-45, HQ

G. Kleeman, EPA

S. Gunderson, CDPHE

C. Spreng, CDPHE

**Administrative Record**

cc w/o Enc.:

J. Rampe, DAMEI, RFFO

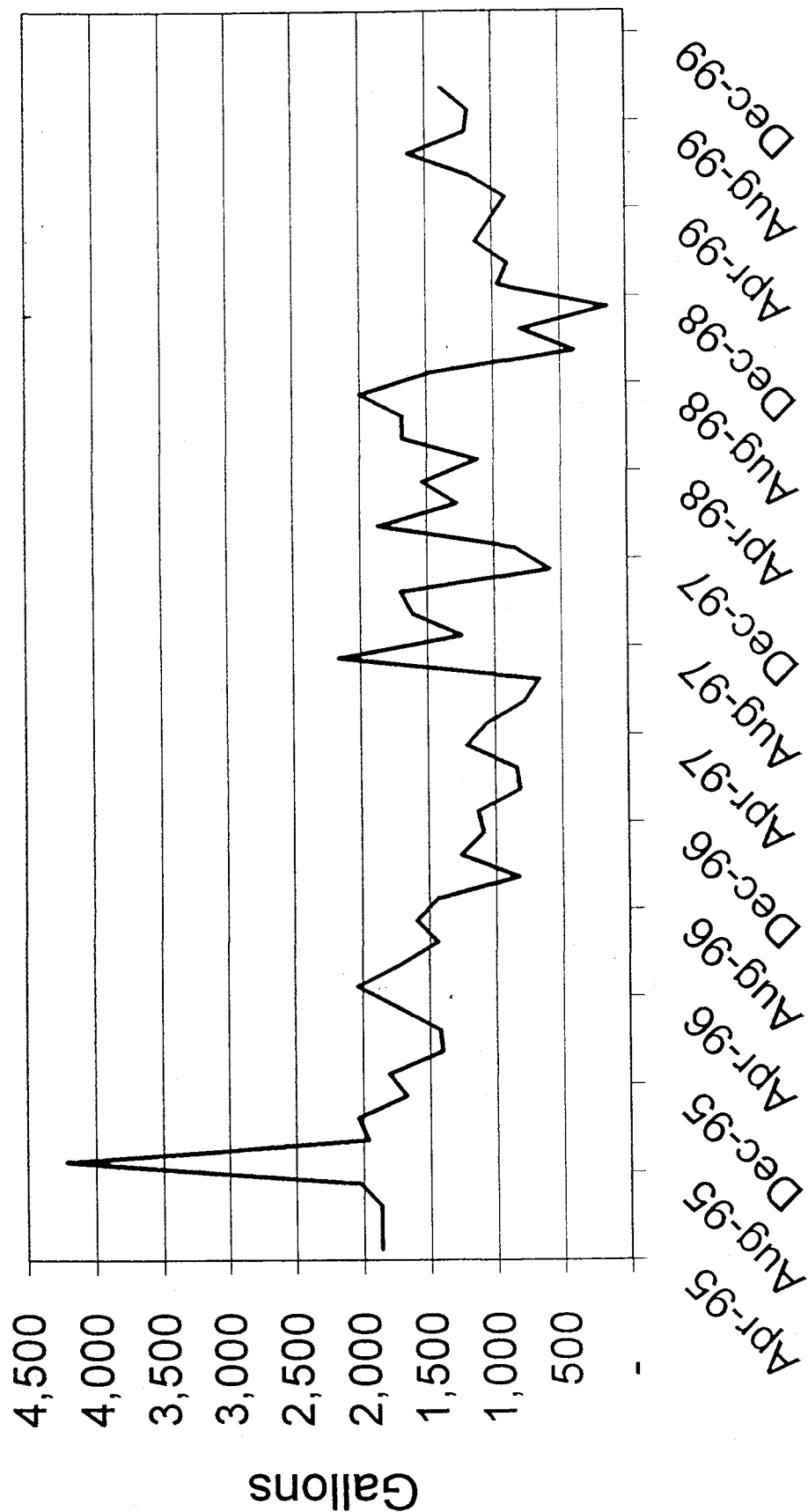
R. DiSalvo, OCC, RFFO

R. Tyler, ER/WM, RFFO

N. Castaneda, ER/WM, RFFO

L. Butler, K-H

# OU 1 Collection Well-Water Volumes



# OU 1 Collection Well Trichloroethene Concentrations

